

Bush between concourses A and B for the opening of what was then the Houston International Airport in 1969. Merle poured concrete all over Houston, including the original Interstate 10. He came across a job with the Marriott Corporation, where he really got to focus on his construction and maintenance certifications. He took computer classes at Lone Star College—Kingwood, eventually earning the top HVAC license. When Marriott wanted to promote Merle and send him to Cincinnati, his family had already considered Humble home. He then quickly put that mechanical education to use and decided to start his own company. In 1978, family-owned and operated Aaron Mechanical opened.

Aaron Mechanical had water bill and permitting issues with the City of Humble. Rather than battling with the city, Merle ran for Humble City Council to help come up with solutions. In 2005, he turned over Aaron Mechanical to the experienced hands of his son. This gave him the opportunity to run for Humble City Council and eventually, mayor for the City of Humble. As mayor, Merle has placed a significant importance in infrastructure. He focused efforts into public safety by improving roads and drainage.

Merle has many times been described as “having a servant’s heart”, and that held true during the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. He worked tirelessly trying to fulfill the needs of the people of Humble, opening up the Humble Civic Center as a shelter, talking with people who lost everything, hugging and crying with them. Merle worked aggressively to have contractors ready as quickly as possible to begin the debris removal process.

The Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce has been selecting a Citizen of the Year since 1969, recognizing those who show selfless public service and sacrifice. It was no question that Merle most deserved to win the Haden E. McKay, MD Citizen of the Year for 2017. But if you ask him, he would tell you, “All the first responders and volunteers who went into the flooded areas of Humble to help people affected by Hurricane Harvey. These are our citizens of the year.”

The City of Humble is important to the Aaron Family. Merle and Linda have three children, eight grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren, who all have or are currently going through Humble ISD schools. For 55 years, their place of worship has been First Baptist Church of Humble. The Aaron family has deep roots in Humble, Texas. Always giving back to the place they call home.

And that’s just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY BATISTA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Nancy Batista as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month. Nancy Batista is a Guatemalan immigrant who came to the U.S. at a very young age. She is the Florida State Director of Mi Familia Vota. Nancy was raised in a single parent home, she understands the sacrifices her mother had to make as she worked three shifts in different factories to sustain the family.

Growing up, her family experienced many hurdles due to their immigration status. Now she uses those experiences as a driver.

Nancy is a wife and mother of two kids, Anthony and Natalie; they are her biggest inspiration.

She obtained her Master’s degree in Business Administration dual concentration in Human Resources and Project management with a scholarship from Herzing University and her Bachelor’s degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Central Florida.

She is thrilled to be a part of the Mi Familia Vota team. She hopes to be an advocate and voice for those who are oppressed.

Under her leadership as Florida State Director, she has led her team to register over 27,000 people to vote this year alone and they are working hard to register 30,000 people by October 9th.

Mi Familia Vota is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, it is their mission to build Latino political power. This year, Mi Familia Vota partnered with the League of Woman Voters to help translate a Voter Guide for Orange county.

Nancy is focused on partnering with other organizations that share the same values and agendas to help promote unity in our communities.

She believes that our communities will greatly benefit from being continuously involved in our government and election processes and she ensures that Mi Familia Vota will be supportive through civic engagement participation.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY’S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 60th anniversary of Florida Institute of Technology (“Florida Tech”). Dr. Jerome P. Keuper founded this private, non-profit university as a “night school for missilemen,” allowing workers at Cape Canaveral to pursue graduate education. Initially named “Brevard Engineering College,” Florida Tech held its first classes on September 22, 1958.

Since its humble beginnings, Florida Tech has soared to great heights. The university now serves nearly 10,000 students through its Melbourne campus, its extended study sites across the nation, and its online facilities.

Boasting more than 60,000 alumni around the world, Florida Tech has earned a spot in U.S. News & World Report as the number one national university in attractiveness to international students. This is the fourth year in a row that Florida Tech has been recognized for its diverse student body.

Florida Tech has also been recognized for the remarkable leadership of President T. Dwayne McCay and First Lady Mary Helen McCay. This past November, the couple was inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame in honor of the 15 joint patents they hold in the field of metallurgical engineering.

Mayors Kathleen Meehan of Melbourne and Hal Rose of West Melbourne have testified to

the significant educational and cultural contributions that Florida Tech has made to the region, the state, the nation, as well as the globe. Through “the university’s core values of research to benefit all humankind; student success for a lifetime; and good global citizenship,” Florida Tech has raised the bar for every institution of higher education.

Last month marked 60 years since the founding of the university that began its life as “countdown college.” Mayor William Capote of Palm Bay delivered remarks at the anniversary celebration, and, in a fitting touch, Florida Tech commemorated its achievement by launching fireworks into the sky, reminding many graduates of the rockets and satellites they have helped launch beyond Earth’s atmosphere.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Florida Tech, as well as its faculty, staff, students, and graduates. Please rise in honor of the university’s 60 years of educating excellence.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT LOCOMOTIVE CHASE FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF ADAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Great Locomotive Chase Festival in the city of Adairsville, Georgia.

In 1968, Marion Lacey, principal of Adairsville High School wanted to host a Festival in the fall for students and members of the community to come together. Two years later, the festival was moved to the downtown Adairsville area, and was renamed the Great Locomotive Chase Festival to commemorate the event during the Civil War when “the Texas” pursued “the General” for eighty-seven miles, passing through the city of Adairsville.

This longstanding Adairsville tradition is the 2nd oldest festival in the state of Georgia, and hosts over 30,000 people during the three-day event. The parade, pageants, live entertainment, rides, a wide selection of southern fare, and fireworks, offers something for every member of the community. The 50th anniversary GLCF will be held this year on October 5–7.

On behalf of Georgia’s 11th Congressional District, I recognize the City of Adairsville, the Mayor, and the City Council on this 50th anniversary of the Great Locomotive Chase Festival.

IN HONOR OF M.B. SMILEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1968

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the vibrant history and spirit of M.B. Smiley High School Class of ‘68 as

they gather for their 50-year high school reunion.

I am proud to congratulate all of this class as they bring old friends together and celebrate everything they have accomplished since their graduation 50 years ago.

As students at M.B. Smiley, these individuals were instilled with the values of a strong work ethic, leadership, and service which enabled them to succeed in whatever endeavor they chose later in life. This has been made evident by the many educators, doctors, lawyers, community leaders, and elected officials that have gone on to excel in their personal and professional lives. Through their dedication and commitment, many have left a lasting impact on their communities and the people around them—ensuring the preservation of the strong legacy of M.B. Smiley High School.

After graduation, numerous young men and women from the class of '68 went on to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War—with some paying the ultimate sacrifice for our country. These great individuals selflessly fulfilled their duty and defended our Nation in a time of war, and we thank them for their steadfast service and dedication to country.

As this group of former students once again joins together to meet with their fellow classmates from the class of 1968, I am proud to recognize this momentous occasion and wish them the best as they celebrate their 50-year reunion.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JACOB RUIZ

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Major Jacob Ruiz as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month. Major Jacob Ruiz raised in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and moved to the mainland U.S. at 12 years old. He is a former Marine, who began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Massachusetts.

He later relocated to South Florida where he worked for the Broward Sheriff's Office and then as a Police Officer with the Lauderhill Police Department. In 2003, Major Ruiz relocated to Central Florida where he began his career with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

Major Ruiz has worked as a Patrol Deputy, School Resource Officer, Persons Crimes detective and SWAT team operator. Major Ruiz attained the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and in 2017, he was promoted to Captain by Sheriff Russell Gibson and later that year to Major.

Major Ruiz oversees the administration of the School Safety Division, Court Services Division and is the director of Media and Public Relations for the sheriff's office. He is the father of four children; Sara, Jaylin, Ellie and Jacob Jr. and they are his proudest and most important part of his life.

Major Ruiz holds degrees in Homeland Security, History and currently attends Rollins College's Executive MBA program. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Command Officers Development Course from the University of Louisville and a board member of the Osceola Hispanic Business Council and the Osceola Boys and Girls Club.

Major Ruiz has been instrumental in uniting and engaging the community with their local sheriff's office. Major Ruiz works to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the Hispanic Community that may exist from time to time, through communication, education and community service, in efforts of reinforcing the greatness of our Central FL Community.

Major Ruiz is intentional in celebrating inclusion and diversity throughout our community and does this while also being committed to public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDREW TORGET

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Andrew Torget, a history professor at the University of North Texas, on his record-breaking accomplishment. This summer, he set out to teach the entire history of Texas in one continuous lecture. Dr. Torget's passion for the Portal to Texas History motivated him to use his world record lecture to raise money for the preservation of historic documents.

During this very long lecture, Dr. Torget taught the history of the Lone Star State, from prehistoric times to present day. Speaking for 26 hours straight, Dr. Torget raised nearly \$20,000 to help chronicle and preserve the history of Texas. Through social media coverage and a live-stream of the event, people as far away as Ireland heard the stories of our great State.

As an alum of the University of North Texas, I am particularly honored to congratulate him on this world-renowned achievement. It is an honor to represent Dr. Torget and the University of North Texas, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OL' BILL—MR. BILL CARTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, way out west, Texas that is, where one can always find a back road and porch with a rocking chair, are towns like Spring, Texas and Laredo, Texas. Here, one could always find Mr. Bill Carter telling stories about how he grew up, sharing past hunting adventures, and explaining how he started Carter's Country.

Ol' Bill in his starched jeans, crisp shirt, and worn boots was a fine businessman, hunter, husband, father, and devoted family man. He spent his entire life building his family business, enjoying the outdoors, and serving his community. Spring, Texas and the entire state of Texas lost a legend of a man on October 2, 2018.

Bill was born in 1934, in a small town in North Carolina. As a child, his love for firearms began at the age of eleven when he bought a used Winchester 22 pump. During this time, his love of the outdoors grew. And

at an early age he began delivering papers, he was an entrepreneur in the making.

During high school years, Bill joined the North Carolina National Guard. After graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps. His lifelong passion for firearms deepened. He considered a career with the Marine Corps, but decided to leave in 1956 to continue his education.

After returning from the Korean War, Bill realized college was not for him. He became a seaman on a merchant ship. While sailing routes from Houston to New Jersey, he discovered a love for the Houston area. At the end of his shipping route, he met his future wife, Ellen, in New Jersey.

Bill and Ellen married and soon talked her into moving to Houston. He got a job as an ironworker, and Ellen worked in the emergency room as a registered nurse at Hermann Hospital. He soon started doing custom gun work in his garage for his ironworker friends. His wide-ranging knowledge of guns made him well known in the Houston area. Through Bill and Ellen's hard work and dedication, they purchased 15 acres of land and a gun club on Aldine Westfield near FM 1960.

In 1969, business was booming so they purchased a larger piece of property off Treaschwig in Spring, Texas. This location is currently Carter's Country headquarters. Ellen retired from nursing and helped with everyday business. They had two kids, Billy and Lori. Billy and Lori took over many Carter responsibilities and both play an important role in the Carter legacy.

Bill's love of outdoors and passion for hunting brought him to ranching. In the late 70s, he purchased Sombrero Ranch in South Texas. He treasured managing a 100% native South Texas deer herd. His bucks have the famous 10-point genes. His 11,000 acre ranch was originally part of the Spanish land grant, and now it is known for producing some of the best trophy bucks in North America.

Today, the Carter's have four retail stores, a gun range, and elk and whitetail hunting ranches. It is my hope that Bill's legacy will be remembered and folks will see if a humble southern boy with modest beginnings can achieve his American dream, they can too. Of course—with hard work, perseverance, passion and dedication. I consider it an honor to have known this true Texas cowboy and have him as a friend.

My thoughts are with the love of his life, Ellen, and their two children. They all share the same passion for the great Texas outdoors. His memory will live on, in the many lives he touched along the way. Texas will miss Ol' Bill, Happy Trails.

Semper Fi.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING 2018 BALDWIN COUNTY REACH RECIPIENTS

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Talexia Brooks, Luna Espinoza, Isabella Harp, Isaac Harris, and McKinsey Pennamon for being selected as 2018 REACH Scholars for Baldwin County, Georgia.